

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a biologically active agent that is capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal and an immunostimulant amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof.

Claims 2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 further comprising a cationic polypeptide, cationic polyamino acid, a quaternary ammonium compound or a mixture thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 further comprising a first material capable of forming particles, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in the form of particles.

Claims 7-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 6 wherein the particles comprise microspheres, microparticles or liposomes.

12. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 11 wherein the particles are microparticles.

13. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 6 wherein the first material capable of forming particles is a polymeric material which has a molecular weight of 100kDa or more.

14. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 6 wherein the first material capable of forming particles comprises poly-(L-lactide).

15. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 6 wherein the ratio of the first material capable of forming particles to the ~~polycationic-carbohydrate~~ N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof is from 99:1 to 9:1 w/w.

16. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the biologically active agent is capable of generating a protective immune response against tetanus, anthrax, diphtheria, or *Yersinia pestis*.

17. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 37 wherein the biologically active agent comprises a combination of the V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof, and the F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof.

18-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 6 which further comprises a chemical compound selected from the group consisting of:

- (A) a polyamino acid,
- (B) a vitamin or vitamin derivative,
- (C) cationic pluronics,
- (D) a clathrate,
- (E) a complexing agent,
- (F) cetrimides,
- (G) an S-layer protein, ~~or~~ and
- (H) methyl-glucamine.

21. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising a cationic pluronic.

22. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 20 which comprises particles of the cationic pluronic which are surface modified with a ~~polycationic carbohydrate~~ N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof.

Claims 23-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 6, wherein the biologically active agent is able to produce an immune response against tetanus, diphtheria, anthrax, or *Yersinia pestis* in an animal to which it is administered.

Claims 38-43. (Cancelled)

44. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising particles comprising a first material, N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof and a biologically active agent capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal or a human when administered to the animal or the human, wherein the ratio of the first material to the N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof is from 99:1 to 9:1 w/w.

45. (New) The composition of claim 44, wherein the particles comprise microspheres, microparticles or liposomes.

46. (New) The composition of claim 44, wherein the first material is a polymeric material which has a molecular weight of 100kDa or more.

47. (New) The composition of claim 44, wherein the first material is cationic pluronic.

48. (New) The composition of claim 44, wherein the first material comprises poly-(L-lactide).

49. (New) The composition of claim 44, wherein the biologically active agent is capable of generating the protective immune response against tetanus, anthrax, diphtheria or *Yersinia pestis*.

50. (New) The composition of claim 44, wherein the biologically active agent comprises a combination of V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof, and F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof.

51. (New) The composition of claim 44, further comprising one or more chemical compounds selected from the group consisting of a polyamino acid, a vitamin, a vitamin derivative, a cationic pluronic, a clathrate, a complexing agent, a cetrimide, an S-layer protein, a methyl-glucamine, a cationic polypeptide, a cationic polyamino acid, and a quaternary ammonium compound..

52. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising particles comprising a first material and a biologically active agent capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal or a human and N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof at a surface of the particles.

53. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the particles are surface-modified or coated with N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof.

54. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof is adsorbed onto the surface of the particles.

55. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the particles comprise microspheres, microparticles or liposomes.

56. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the first material is a polymeric material which has a molecular weight of 100kDa or more.

57. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the first material is cationic pluronic.

58. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the first material comprises poly-(L-lactide).

59. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the biologically active agent is capable of generating the protective immune response against tetanus, anthrax, diphtheria or *Yersinia pestis*.

60. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the biologically active agent comprises a combination of V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof, and F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof.

61. (New) The composition of claim 52, further comprising one or more chemical compounds selected from the group consisting of a polyamino acid, a vitamin, a vitamin derivative, a cationic pluronic, a clathrate, a complexing agent, a cetrimide, an S-layer protein, a methyl-glucamine, a cationic polypeptide, a cationic polyamino acid, and a quaternary ammonium compound.

62. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an immunostimulating amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof and particles comprising a first material and a biologically active agent capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal or a human.

63. (New) The composition of claim 62, wherein the particles are surface-modified or coated with at least a part of the immunostimulating amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof.

64. (New) The composition of claim 62, wherein at least a part of the immunostimulating amount N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof is adsorbed onto the surface of the particles.

65. (New) The composition of claim 62, wherein the particles comprise microspheres, microparticles or liposomes.

66. (New) The composition of claim 62, wherein the first material is a polymeric material which has a molecular weight of 100kDa or more.

67. (New) The composition of claim 62, wherein the first material is cationic pluronic.

68. (New) The composition of claim 62, wherein the first material comprises poly-(L-lactide).

69. (New) The composition of claim 62, wherein the biologically active agent is capable of generating the protective immune response against tetanus, anthrax, diphtheria or *Yersinia pestis*.

70. (New) The composition of claim 62, wherein the biologically active agent comprises a combination of the V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof, and the F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof.

71. (New) The composition of claim 62, further comprising one or more chemical compounds selected from the group consisting of a polyamino acid, a vitamin, a vitamin derivative, a cationic pluronic, a clathrate, a complexing agent, a cetrimide, an S-layer protein, a methyl-glucamine, a cationic polypeptide, a cationic polyamino acid, and a quaternary ammonium compound.